thr cys his ala gly phe phe leu arg glu asn glu cys val
ser cys ser asn cys lys lys ser leu glu cys thr lys leu
cys leu pro gln ile glu asn (SEQ ID NO: 4)

or a functional derivative or fragment thereof having the ability to bind TNF.

The invention also relates to a process for preparing a recombinant TNF receptor protein, or a functional derivative thereof which is capable of binding to TNF, comprising cultivating a host cell of the invention and isolating the expressed recombinant TNF receptor protein.

The invention also relates to pharmaceutical compositions comprising a TNF receptor protein, or a functional derivative or fragment thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

The invention also relates to a method for ameliorating the harmful effects of TNF in an animal, comprising administering to an animal in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a TNF receptor polypeptide, or fragment thereof which binds to TNF.

The invention also relates to a method for the detection of TNF in a biological sample, comprising contacting said sample with an effective amount of a TNF receptor polypeptide, or fragment thereof which binds to TNF, and detecting whether a complex is formed.

Description of the Figures

Figures 1A-1C depict the complete nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO: 21) of 1334 bases of the cDNA insert of λ-TNF-BP15 and pTNF-BP15.

Figure 2 depicts a hydrophobicity profile which was produced using the Mac Molly program.

Figures 3A-3B depict the scheme used for the construction of plasmid pCMV-SV40.

Figures 4A-4B depict the scheme used for the construction of plasmid pSV2gptDHFR Mut2.

Figures 5A-5B depict the scheme used for the construction of plasmids pAD-CMV1 and pAD-CMV2.

Figures 6A-6E depict the full nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO: 23) of the 6414 bp plasmid pAD-CMV1.